GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3048
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2005
TATA TEA COMPANY
Purandeswari Smt. Daggubati

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Tea Company has to exit the Tea plantation business in South India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Company submitted any plan to transfer seventeen tea gardens in South India to a new private limited company by a group of its own employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the Government`s reaction thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY(SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a)to(d): As per the information available, M/s.Tata Tea Limited has 8 freehold estates spread across Kerala and Tamil Nadu and 17 estates in the `concession area` which reportedly is in the Kannan Devan Hills. The `concession` area represents land given on perpetual lease by the Poonjar Chief over 100 years ago. It has been reported that M/s.Tata Tea proposes to arrange sale or transfer of the 8 freehold estates outside the `concession area` subject to approval of their shareholders and to transfer the business of the 17 estates in the `concession area` to a Private Limited Company to be formed by the employees of these estates. According to the State Government of Kerala, as per the original lease deed and the royal proclamation, the lessee can transfer in lease, hold right to a third person only with the permission of the State Government.